



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Health Services

At its meeting held March 30, 2004, the Board took the following action:

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The following item was called up for consideration:

Supervisor Yaroslavsky's recommendation to instruct the Director of Health Services to create the position of Director of Nursing Care in the Department of Health Services; and to incorporate the new position and a modest but appropriate support staff within the Department's budget request for Fiscal Year 2004-05 for the Board's consideration during budget deliberations.

Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

"It is extremely important that the Director of Health Services recognize the need for stronger direction and leadership on nursing issues and to establish a responsible nurse to coordinate the management of activities such as complying with the nurse staffing ratios, nurse recruitment and retention, and workload performance. However, the creation of a new position of Director of Nursing Care should be evaluated in the context of the Department's Fiscal Year 2007-08 forecast of \$740 million deficit. We need to remain focused on dedicating existing funds for inpatient and outpatient services.

"The Department of Health Services has an existing nursing structure that includes the hospital nursing directors, as well as many individuals working on nursing issues elsewhere in the Department, both centrally and in the hospitals, that can be redirected to provide this leadership."

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“I, therefore recommend that the Director of Health Services report back prior to Budget Deliberations on options to establish a centrally coordinated presence on nursing management and policy issues. This review should include the roles and responsibilities of such an office, the cost of establishing a new Director of Nursing Care office, and opportunities to use existing staff resources to provide this leadership.”

In addition, Supervisor Burke requested the report from the Director of Health Services include how the proposed Director of Nursing Care would relate to recruitment, standards, and how the position would interrelate with the Medical Directors of the particular hospitals as to allocating nursing resources in the various departments within the hospitals; and to clarify exactly what the role would be in terms of the centralization of a Nursing Director; and the number of staff that would be necessary to support this position and the cost of the staff and their role and responsibilities.

Nick Builder representing SEIU Local 660 and Joel Solis a Registered Nurse at LAC+USC Medical Center addressed the Board.

After discussion, on motion of Supervisor Yaroslavsky, seconded by Supervisor Molina, unanimously carried (Supervisor Knabe being absent), Supervisors Yaroslavsky, Antonovich and Burke's aforementioned recommendations were continued to the meeting of April 20, 2004.

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